

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DRAFT UPU GENEVA SUB-GROUP PAPER FOR SUBMISSION TO SUMMIT

GG FEB 4

REF: GENEVA 185

PASS US POSTAL SERVICE (ED STOCK)

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION GENEVA GROUP SUB-GROUP PAPER NOW CIRCULATING AMONG MEMBERS IN BERN AND GENEVA WITH DEADLINE FOR COMMENT AND CORRECTIONS SET FOR JAN 23. MISSION WILL FORWARD CORRECTED VERSION AS SOON AFTER JAN 23 AS POSSIBLE.

2.I. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENEVA GROUP, UPU, SINCE FEB 1974:

THE GENEVA SUB-GROUP, UPU, MET TWICE SINCE FEB 1974 -- ONE IN FULL SESSION AT BERN ON FEB 12 UNDER UK CHAIRMANSHIP AND AGAIN, IN AD HOC SESSION AT LAUSANNE IN JUNE DURING THE UPU CONGRESS UNDER U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP.

AT THE FEB 12 MEETING THE GROUP ADDRESSED ITSELF TO TOPICS SUGGESTED BY THE 1974 SUMMIT GENEVA GROUP SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

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(1.) THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT THAT LAST-MINUTE

ADDITIONS TO BEDGETS TO MEET CURRENCY FLUCTATIONS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED. IT WAS RECONGIZED THAT CURRENCY FLUCTATIONS IN THE UPU MAINLY AFFECTED SALARIES WHICH HAD UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS ON THE BUDGET.

(2.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE GROUP SHOULD BE ALERT TO NOTE ANY WINDFALL ON SALARY ADJUSTMENTS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IF THE DOLLAR REGAINED STRENGTH.

(3.) IT WAS NOTED THAT WHILE THE UPU WAS PERHAPS LESS AFFECTED BY CURRENCY FLUCTATIONS THAN OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, IT HAD RESULTED IN AN EFFECTIVE REDUCTION IN THE BUDGET CEILING BY 6.6 PER CENT. THE GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT THE UPU STAFF WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WOULD BE MORE CURRENCY FLUCTATIONS.

(4.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT MEMBERS SHOULD URGE THE UPU TO MAKE CLEAR IN ITS BUDGET PRESENTATIONS WHAT PROPORTION OF A PROPOSED BUDGET INCREASE WAS DUE TO INCREASED PROGRAM AND WHAT WAS DUE TO RISING PRICES.

(5.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT UPU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH THE UNPD OR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND NOT OUT OF THE REGULAR BUDGET OF THE UNION.

(6.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT MEMBERS WOULD OBTAIN COPIES OF THE UNJIU REPORT ON LONG-TERM PLANNING FROM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD STUDY THE REPORT CAREFULLY WITH A VIEW TO ITS POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO THE UPU.

(7.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT FULL USE SHOULD BE MADE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO WIDEN THE AREA OF AGREEMENT WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE, BUDGETARY AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES ARISING IN THE UPU.

(8.) IT WAS NOTED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE UPU USE OF THE ICC COMPUTER IN GENEVA, THAT THE UPU WAS IN A SPECIAL POSITION IN THAT IT HAD THE USE OF THE ITU COMPUTER ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS AND USED
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THIS COMPUTER IN PREPARATION OF ITS BUDGET VERY EFFICIENTLY.

(9.) THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE UPU BUDGET-ARY INCREASES IN 1974 AND 1975 HAD BEEN MINIMAL, MAJOR INCREASES HAVING BEEN CAUSED PRINCIPALLY BY INCREASES IN THE UN SALARY SCALE, DECIDED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(10.) THRE WAS AGREEMENT THAT GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON THE NEW UPU CONTRIBUTORY SYSTEM WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED WIDELY IN ADVANCE OF CONVENING OF THE LAUSANNE CONGRESS SO THAT

DECISIONS COULD BE MADE ON THIS QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF THE FULLEST INFORMATION.

THE SUBJ-GROUP ALSO CONVENED IN AD HOC SESSION AT LAUSANNE IN JUNE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FINANCING THE UNION BUDGET WHICH AROSE AS AN ISSUE AT THE CONGRESS. THE GROUP AGAIN AGREED TO SUPPORT THE POSITION THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FINANCING SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR BUDGET OF THE UNION.

3. (II.) DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST TO THE CONSULTATION LEVEL MEETING:

THE EFFECT OF CONTINUING EXCHANGE RATE INSTABILITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET X CEILINGS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAUSANNE CONGRESS AND THE ECONSOC IN-DEPT STUDY OF THE UPU TO BE DONE IN 1975 ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

4. (III.) FUTURE PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE GENEVA GROUP AND LOCAL GROUP:

THE PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING THE NEW LANGUAGE COST-SHARING PROGRAM EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1977, WILL BE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE SUB-GROUP. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SUB-GROUP WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME OF THE UPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MAY 1975. ABRAMS

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